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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #0977/72  
27 Sept 1972Yugoslav Officer Falls to Assassin's Bullet *jil*

Tanjug domestic service carried a brief news item on 26 September announcing the death of a Croatian militia commander, Djuro Uzelac. On 24 September, Uzelac was killed by a sniper while riding in his car on the Gospic-Karlobag road (in his district along the Dalmatian coast). One other person was slightly wounded. No details of the incident are available yet, but authorities are reportedly carrying out an extensive investigation of the case.

In view of heightened ustashi activity against Yugoslavia, it is tempting to read this as another emigre sponsored incident. Given the lack of information on the crime, however, such a conclusion would be premature. The Hatfield-McCoy mentality prevailing in much of Yugoslavia as well as the penchant for settling disputes and arguments with a gun are highly plausible reasons for the murder. Then again, Uzelac may have fallen prey to an amorous rival or jealous husband. 25X1

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